(b) The two sides are pursuing a broad-based dialogue, both at the political level and through established bilateral formus, to deepen understanding and expand cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

(c) The two sides are in agreement on a number of bilateral, regional and international issues and have entered into signed agreements, memorandums of understanding or programmes of collaborative activities, where necessary, in areas such as high technology commerce, space, energy, environment, health, science and technology, economic relations, counter-terrorism and defence.

(d) There are presently no such agreements.

(e) There has been a significant improvement in India-United States relations.

Ban on Celebration of Bengal New Year

2404. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Bangladesh some movements are demanding a ban on celebration of Bengal New Year and on Indian TV Channels; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Articles and comments advocating ban/restriction on celebration of Bengal New Year and on broadcast of Indian TV channels appear from time to time in sections of the Bangladeshi media.

(b) The government has not taken cognisance of such media reports.

Harassment of Employees of Indian High Commission in Pakistan

†2405. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees posted in the office of Indian High Commission in Pakistan;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.